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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 16, 1979

Presidential Directive/NSC -54

TO:           The Secretary of State  
              The Secretary of Defense  
              The Secretary of Interior  
              The Secretary of Agriculture  
              The Secretary of Commerce  
              The Secretary of Transportation  
              The Secretary of Energy  
              The Director, Office of Management and Budget  
              The Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs  
              and Policy  
              The Administrator, Agency for International Development  
              The Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency  
              The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
              The Director of Central Intelligence  
              The Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space  
              Administration  
              The Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency  
              The Director, Office of Science and Technology  
              Policy  
              The Director, National Science Foundation

SUBJECT: Civil Operational Remote Sensing (U)

The President has approved the civil space policy discussed below. The policy amplifies that established in PD/NSC-37 -- National Space Policy and PD/NSC-42 -- Civil and Further National Space Policy. (U)

1. OVERALL DIRECTION. The United States' interests in remote sensing from space will be served by a three part structure:
  - (1) Separate classified activities that have no civil counterparts.
  - (2) Joint or coordinated civil/military activities where both objectives can be satisfied without compromising national policy.
  - (3) Integration of civil operational activities under single civil agency management with coordination and regulation by an interagency board. Joint management and overall system convergence will not be pursued between classified space activities necessary for intelligence and unclassified civil space remote sensing.(8)
2. LAND PROGRAMS. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the Department of Commerce is assigned the management responsibility for civil operational land remote sensing activities

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Review on

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by NARA on the recommendation of the NSC  
under provisions of E.O. 12958

in addition to its ongoing atmospheric and oceanic responsibilities. Initially, the operational land remote sensing system from space will be based on LANDSAT technology. Commerce's initial responsibility -- in coordination with other appropriate agencies -- will be to develop a time-phased transition plan covering: (1) a Program Board (discussed below); (2) organization for management and regulation; (3) system financing including pricing policies for the users sharing of costs; (4) technical programs; (5) establishment of private and international participation; (6) identification of facilities (including the EROS data center), hardware, and personnel that should be transferred; and (7) identification of actions such as executive orders and legislation required. Commerce will submit to OMB a preliminary implementation plan by December 15, 1979, covering any required FY 1981 budget adjustments and a final transition plan by June 1, 1980. (U)

a. Federal Management Mechanism. Commerce will establish and chair a Program Board for continuing federal coordination and regulation with representatives from the involved federal organizations (e.g., Defense, Interior, Agriculture, Transportation, Energy, State, NASA, CIA, AID, EPA and EOP). Organizations such as the National Governors' Association and National Conference of State Legislatures will be asked to participate as necessary. The Board will forward recommendations on unresolved policy issues to the Policy Review Committee (Space) for consideration and action. (U)

b. Private Sector Involvement. Our goal is the eventual operation by the private sector of our civil land remote sensing activities. Commerce will budget for further work in FY 1981 to seek ways to enhance private sector opportunities (e.g., joint venture with industry, a quasi-government corporation, leasing, etc.). Commerce will be the contact for private industry on this matter and with the Program Board will analyze any proposals received prior to submitting policy issues to the Policy Review Committee (Space) for consideration and action. (U)

c. International Participation. The United States will generally support non-discriminatory direct readout to foreign ground stations to continue our present policy and to provide data to foreign users under specified conditions. Pricing policies must be developed that are consistent for foreign and domestic users. We will promote development of complementary nationally operated satellite systems so as to limit US program costs, but protect against unwarranted technology transfer. (U)

3. WEATHER PROGRAMS. Defense and Commerce will maintain and coordinate dual polar orbiting meteorological programs. We will continue procurement of current satellite systems with Defense and Commerce each operating separate satellites to meet the differing needs of the military and civil sectors. When any new polar

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orbiting satellites are justified they will be jointly developed and procured by Defense, Commerce and NASA to maximize technology-sharing and to minimize cost. An appropriate coordination mechanism will be established to assure effective cooperation and to prevent duplication. (U)

4. OCEAN PROGRAMS. If a decision is made to develop oceanographic satellites, joint Defense/Commerce/NASA development, acquisition and management will be pursued. A Committee will be established, with the above representation expanded to include State, CIA, and NSF. The Committee will forward recommendations on policy issues to the Policy Review Committee (Space) for consideration and action. (U)



Zbigniew Brzezinski

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